Enterprises – Development Institutes (MSME-DIs) conduct District Industrial Potential Surveys in various districts once in five years. The potential surveys in respect of Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Patan districts in Gujarat were conducted in the year 2004-05, 2005-06, 2003-04 and 2006-07, respectively. As per the surveys, these districts have scope to establish agro based, livestock based, local demand based, forest based and mineral based enterprises.

The development and promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is primarily the responsibility of States/Union Territories. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Government/Union Territories for development and promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through various schemes/programmes implemented across the country including the State of Gujarat. In addition, the Government announced the "Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises" on 27.02.2007, which *inter-alia*, provides for credit support, fiscal support, support for cluster based development, technology and quality upgradation, marketing entrepreneurial and managerial development, empowerment of women owned enterprises and strengthening of data base for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Sector.

Creation of fund for slow down hit unorganized sector

3765. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created any development bank or a fund for slowdown-hit unorganized sector which is bearing the brunt of slowdown like National Fund for the Unorganized Sector (NAFUS) to disburse credit as low as Rs. 10,000 at subsidized interest rates to small entrepreneurs, like paanwallahs, 'kirana store owners' or 'dhaba owners';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such fund would be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) A Fund for the Unorganised sector with a corpus of Rs.1,000 crore is under consideration of the Government.

Effect of economic slowdown on small scale industries

3766. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) how many small scale industries in the State have been affected due to economic slowdown in the country, State-wise;

(b) what steps have been taken by the State/Central Government to boost up the moral support of such affected industries; and

(c) how many employees have been thrown out in this sector during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) While there is no State-wise information on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) affected by the economic slowdown, some of the most affected sectors are textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, auto components, etc. Keeping in view the impact of global/domestic economic slowdown on MSMEs, the Government, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Public Sector banks have taken several measures for protecting and providing a stimulus to the MSMEs which, *inter alia*, include: (i) extending the loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.1 crore with a guarantee cover of 50 per cent; (ii) increasing the guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme from 80 per cent to 85 per cent for credit facility up to Rs.5 lakh; (iii) an advisory to Central Public Sector Enterprises to ensure prompt payment of bills of MSMEs; (iv) interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit to small and medium enterprises (SME) sector; (v) refinance limit of Rs.7,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for incremental on-lending to the micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector; (vi) grant of need-based *ad hoc* working capital demand loans up to 20 per cent of the existing fund-based limits; and (vii) reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises by 1 per cent and in respect of SMEs by 0.5 per cent. The information on number of persons rendered jobless in the MSME sector is not maintained centrally.

Revision of criteria for season tickets

3767. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the earning income criteria to Rs. 3,000/- a month for availing the facility of the season ticket;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such proposal would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Ranchi

3768. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether she is aware that Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Ranchi running thrice a week has very old coaches;

(b) whether she is looking to the need of connecting Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand with New Delhi for six days a week and also replacing the old coaches with new rakes/ compartments;